

# Software Diversification for WebAssembly

JAVIER CABRERA-ARTEAGA

Doctoral Thesis in Computer Science Supervised by Benoit Baudry and Martin Monperrus

Stockholm, Sweden, 2023

KTH Royal Institute of Technology
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Division of Software and Computer Systems
TRITA-EECS-AVL-2020:4
SE-10044 Stockholm
ISBN 100-Sweden

Akademisk avhandling som med tillstånd av Kungl Tekniska högskolan framlägges till offentlig granskning för avläggande av Teknologie doktorexamen i elektroteknik i .

© Javier Cabrera-Arteaga , date

Tryck: Universitetsservice US AB

#### Abstract

 $\bf Keywords:$  Web Assembly, Software Diversification, Side-Channels, Moving Target Defense

#### Sammanfattning

### LIST OF PAPERS

WebAssembly Diversification for Malware Evasion
 Javier Cabrera-Arteaga, Tim Toady, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry
 Computers & Security, Volume 131, 2023, 17 pages
 https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S01674048230
 02067

 $2. \ \ \textit{Wasm-mutate:} \quad \textit{Fast and Effective Binary Diversification for } \\ \textit{WebAssembly}$ 

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Nicholas Fitzgerald, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry

Submitted to Computers & Security, 17 pages https://arxiv.org/pdf/2309.07638.pdf

3. Multi-Variant Execution at the Edge

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Pierre Laperdrix, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry

Moving Target Defense (MTD 2022), 12 pages https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3560828.3564007

4. CROW: Code Diversification for WebAssembly

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Orestis Floros, Oscar Vera-Pérez, Benoit Baudry, Martin Monperrus

Measurements, Attacks, and Defenses for the Web (MADWeb 2021), 12 pages https://doi.org/10.14722/madweb.2021.23004

5. Superoptimization of WebAssembly Bytecode

**Javier Cabrera-Arteaga**, Shrinish Donde, Jian Gu, Orestis Floros, Lucas Satabin, Benoit Baudry, Martin Monperrus

Conference Companion of the 4th International Conference on Art, Science, and Engineering of Programming (Programming 2021), MoreVMs, 4 pages https://doi.org/10.1145/3397537.3397567

Scalable Comparison of JavaScript V8 Bytecode Traces
 Javier Cabrera-Arteaga, Martin Monperrus, Benoit Baudry
 11th ACM SIGPLAN International Workshop on Virtual Machines and
 Intermediate Languages (SPLASH 2019), 10 pages
 https://doi.org/10.1145/3358504.3361228

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

# Contents

List of Papers					
Acknowledgement					
Cont	Contents				
ΙΤ	hesis		2		
1 In	troduct	ion	3		
1.1	Predicta	ability in WebAssembly ecosystems	6		
1.2	Problen	ns statements	7		
1.3		e Diversification	7		
1.4		ry of research papers	8		
2 B	ackgrou	nd and state of the art	11		
2.1	WebAss	sembly	11		
	2.1.1	From source code to WebAssembly	12		
	2.1.2	WebAssembly's binary format	15		
	2.1.3	WebAssembly's runtime	16		
	2.1.4	WebAssembly's control-flow	18		
	2.1.5	Security and Reliability for WebAssembly	19		
	2.1.6	Open challenges	20		
2.2	Softwar	e diversification	21		
	2.2.1	Automatic generation of software variants	21		
	2.2.2	Equivalence Checking	24		
	2.2.3	Variants deployment	25		
	2.2.4	Measuring Software Diversification	26		
	2.2.5	Offensive or Defensive assessment of diversification	27		
2.3	Open cl	hallenges for Software Diversification	28		

2 CONTENTS

$3  \mathbf{A}$	utomatic Software Diversification for WebAssembly	30
3.1	CROW: Code Randomization of WebAssembly	31
	3.1.1 Enumerative synthesis	32
	3.1.2 Constant inferring	33
	3.1.3 Exemplifying CROW	34
3.2	MEWE: Multi-variant Execution for WebAssembly	36
	3.2.1 Multivariant call graph	37
	3.2.2 Exemplifying a Multivariant binary	37
3.3	WASM-MUTATE: Fast and Effective Binary Diversification for	
	WebAssembly	40
	3.3.1 WebAssembly Rewriting Rules	41
	3.3.2 E-Graphs traversals	42 43
2.4	3.3.3 Exemplifying WASM-MUTATE	
3.4	Comparing CROW, MEWE, and WASM-MUTATE	45
	3.4.1 Security applications	48
4 A	ssesing Software Diversification for WebAssembly	<b>50</b>
4.1	Offensive Diversification: Malware evasion	50
	4.1.1 Cryptojacking defense evasion	51
	4.1.2 Methodology	52
	4.1.3 Results	54
4.2	Defensive Diversification: Speculative Side-channel protection	57
	4.2.1 Threat model: speculative side-channel attacks	59
	4.2.2 Methodology	59
	4.2.3 Results	61
5 C	onclusions and Future Work	66
5.1	Summary of technical contributions	66
5.2	Summary of empirical findings	67
5.3	Future Work	68
II In	ncluded papers	71
WebA	Assembly Diversification for Malware Evasion	73
Wasn	n-mutate: Fast and Effective Binary Diversification for WebAssembly	74
CRO	W: Code Diversification for WebAssembly	<b>7</b> 5
Multi	i-Variant Execution at the Edge	<b>76</b>

CONTENTS	3
----------	---

Superoptimization of WebAssembly Bytecode	77
Scalable Comparison of JavaScript V8 Bytecode Traces	<b>7</b> 8

## Part I

# Thesis